

The Board of Directors adopted this as policy 1/25/17 and would like to thank the Board attorney, Richard Moore for his efforts with this statement.

Aikido Schools of Ueshiba Code of Ethics

Introduction

The Aikido Schools of Ueshiba (ASU) is a membership organization whose stated mission is as follows:

The mission of Aikido Schools of Ueshiba is to preserve and disseminate the teachings and principles of Aikido, as transmitted by Morihei Ueshiba O Sensei to his direct disciple Mitsugi Saotome Shihan.

This ASU Code of Ethics is a guide to all members, both students and instructors, on the ethical and moral practices that should be adhered to in the practice and training of Aikido in the ASU.

This Code of Ethics compliments the Rules of the Dojo and Proper Dojo Etiquette as expressed in the ASU Handbook.

Because ASU does not have any corporate or legal responsibilities over, or liability for, the operation of any dojo or the specific conduct of any member, this Code of Ethics should be considered guiding principles and best practices for ASU members.

Code of Ethics

1. Respect
 - a. Respect for Aikido: Instructors and students should understand O Sensei's and Saotome Shihan's vision of Aikido as a martial art of peace and conflict resolution. Instruction, training and practice that is contrary to this vision should be discouraged.
 - b. Respect for Instructors: Reaching instructor status in ASU takes a significant amount of training, testing and time. All students should respect the instructors in their dojo and visiting instructors for their time, talent and training.
 - c. Respect for Students: Students have chosen to practice Aikido voluntarily. Instructors need to respect this decision and make every effort to nurture the development of students who are training in Aikido. Teaching should be done with a positive attitude.
 - d. Mutual Respect: All members, whether they are instructors or students, should train in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

- e. Respect for the dojo: Whether you practice in a formal dojo, in another martial art space or non-martial art facility, respect your space. The dojo should be welcoming to instructors, students and visitors, and should provide a safe environment in which to train in Aikido.

2. Responsibility

- a. Responsibility of Instructors: Instructors have a significant and important role in Aikido.
 - i. Instructors must try to faithfully pass down the teachings of O Sensei as they have been passed down to Saotome Shihan and his senior instructors. Instructors should make an effort to attend seminars given by Saotome Shihan and senior instructors in ASU.
 - ii. Instructors must lead by example. Good technique and good etiquette will - foster the same in students.
 - iii. Instructors shall ensure a safe training place for students.
 - iv. Instructors should never take advantage of their rank and status to inappropriately interact with their students.
- b. Responsibility of Students: Every student in Aikido has a responsibility to the dojo, to their instructors and to other students. Students should know the ASU Rules of the Dojo and Proper Dojo Etiquette as set forth in the ASU Handbook.

3. Instruction

- a. Giving Instruction: Instruction should only be given by instructor level yudansha when possible and may be given by lower level yudansha when necessary. Instruction in Aikido techniques should be clear through visual observation by students and physical interaction with other students and the instructor.
- b. Receiving Instruction: Students should closely observe the instruction being given and try to the best of their ability to following the techniques being shown by the instructor. Sempai (senior students) should preferably lead Kohai (junior students) through techniques rather than talking them through techniques.

4. Training

- a. ASU Rules of the Dojo: All instructors and students should be familiar with the ASU Handbook in general, and the ASU Rules of the Dojo and Proper Dojo Etiquette.
- b. If a dojo has children's classes, then there should be two adults present at all children's classes. The adults may be instructors, other adult students or parents/guardians of the children.

- c. No discrimination: O Sensei's vision was to spread Aikido around the world. Accordingly, ASU prohibits any discrimination, by instructors or students, based upon race, gender, age, sexual preference, religion, socio-economic status or national origin.
 - d. Sexual harassment: Sexual harassment by any member will not be tolerated whether that member is an instructor or a student. Sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that tends to create a hostile or offensive training or work environment.
 - e. Students with Disabilities: When possible, ASU encourages instructors and dojos to accept students with disabilities if the student can safely train. It is the sole discretion of the head instructor of a dojo whether a student with a disability can safely train in Aikido.
5. Compliance with state and federal law. All members of ASU must comply with state and federal law that may be related to the practice of Aikido as a martial art and the operation of a dojo.
6. Membership in ASU: Membership in ASU is a privilege. The ASU Board may, in their sole discretion, terminate or suspend the membership of any instructor or student that violates this Code of Ethics or brings disrepute upon the ASU.